

8, 2022. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE.

# RECOGNIZING THE WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. ROBERT EICHORN

## HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 23, 2022*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the work of Dr. Robert Eichorn who is retiring after two decades of work as an educator. While a Prince William County Principal, Dr. Eichorn's dedicated service has led Independence Nontraditional School to be named the first ever model school by the National Alternative Education Association. His work to meet the needs of an often underserved community has made education and achievement more accessible to Virginia's youth.

Dr. Eichorn has pushed to reimagine education for students, instructors, and the broader Prince William community. He is a fierce advocate for the socioeconomically disadvantaged children of Virginia and has implemented a learner-centric curriculum to meet the needs of the individual. Dr. Eichorn has been an advocate and practitioner for over thirty years, and his efforts have been crucial in the fight for educational equity.

For years, Dr. Eichorn has served as the principal at Independence Nontraditional School, which serves students from kindergarten through 12th grade. The school provides a full curriculum, including music, foreign language, Advanced Placement, and engineering courses. The school also offers internships within their career and technical education trades programs. The primary focus at Independence is to meet the individual needs of every student with tailored instruction. For those who may need a little extra assistance or a second chance, Independence Nontraditional School offers the resources that disadvantaged young people need to achieve their fullest potential.

Dr. Eichorn has been the recipient of multiple awards for his tireless efforts. He was named Prince William County Schools' 2017–18 Principal of the Year. In 2020, the National Association of Secondary School Principals named him a Digital Principal of the Year for his leadership through the COVID–19 pandemic. He shepherded navigated his school as they implemented new technologies to expand access to students and to maintain a semblance of normalcy throughout unprecedented hardship.

As the first model school highlighted by the National Alternative Education Association, Independence has illuminated the successes made possible when our educators strive to develop integrity, ingenuity, and intellect in every student. With the right resources, we must hope to recruit more educators who exemplify the dedication and talent that Dr. Eichorn has demonstrated.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Robert Eichorn for his unwavering dedication to the young people of Prince William County. He has made every effort to ensure that all children have access to the resources they need for a rich and prom-

ising education. His students and colleagues alike have expressed their sincere appreciation for his tremendous service. Dr. Eichner has truly lived up to the Prince William County Public Schools motto, "Providing a World-Class Education." I wish him the best in his retirement and thank him for the service he provided our community.

# INTRODUCTION OF BLOCKED RAIL CROSSINGS SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2022

## HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 23, 2022*

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Blocked Rail Crossings Safety Improvement Act of 2022. This language reflects policies developed in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, where I am proud to serve.

There is a serious and dangerous problem of blocked railroad crossings across the country, with freight trains blocking at-grade crossings in urban and suburban communities across the country. In my district, Indianapolis is experiencing an increasing frequency of blocked railroad crossings by freight trains. Trains are growing longer and longer. Downtown rail crossings have been blocked for unacceptably long periods, including one incident that lasted over 3 hours. This not only interrupts business operations and normal traffic, but it threatens public safety—especially when emergency vehicles must be re-routed.

This is why we must pass legislation to address this problem. The Blocked Rail Crossings Safety Improvement Act will help fix this problem. The language is based on provisions passed by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and passed by the House in the INVEST Act. These provisions, which I recommended, place limits on how long crossings can be blocked, and impose penalties for blocking crossings. While I appreciated and supported the limited provisions included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, I don't believe they went far enough. More must be done.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Blocked Rail Crossings Safety Improvement Act.

# HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONER SYLVIA MURPHY

## HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 23, 2022*

Mr. GIMENEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of former Monroe County Commissioner and first responder Sylvia Murphy. From the age of 18, when she first moved to Monroe County, Commissioner Murphy spent her life serving the Florida Keys in many ways.

Sylvia Murphy was elected County Commissioner for District 5, which covers the Upper Keys from North Key Largo to Tavernier, in 2006, where she served for 14 years. Before

becoming commissioner, she served the public as an EMT with Monroe County Emergency Medical Services and with the Tavernier Volunteer Fire Department, where she spent 2 decades.

Commissioner Murphy was a tireless champion for the Florida Keys. Her proudest accomplishment was brokering the deal that purchased the land that became Key Largo's Rowell's Park, located at mile marker 104. She was remembered by friends and colleagues as a tenacious public servant who truly loved the Florida Keys.

Sylvia Murphy will be remembered for her lifelong service to the Florida Keys, and her life of service will remain a role model for so many in our community. It was an honor knowing commissioner Murphy. She will be missed.

# PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. JAMES R. BAIRD

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 23, 2022*

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, due to travel constraints, I was unable to cast two votes on December 15, 2022. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 529, and NAY on Roll Call No. 530.

# INTRODUCTION OF JUSTICE FOR JOURNALISTS ACT OF 2022

## HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 23, 2022*

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Justice For Journalists Act, mandating an investigation into all non-natural deaths of journalists and media workers in a foreign nation, who are U.S. citizens or working on behalf of a U.S.-based news media entity.

In the last year, we have witnessed many attacks on the rights and safety of journalists and media workers, particularly those who shine a light on violations of human rights and rule of law, war, and other atrocities around the world.

Even reporters covering sporting events may be subject to detainment as we saw in November, when Grant Wahl was detained and briefly refused entry to a World Cup match because he was wearing a rainbow t-shirt in support of LGBTQ rights.

There are several pending bills in Congress with provisions to protect threatened or at-risk journalists working in foreign nations. However, there is no legislation requiring the United States to investigate any non-natural deaths of journalists and media workers performing their duty in a foreign nation. Currently, an act of Congress is required to investigate every single non-natural death—and that cannot stand.

Journalists and media workers report on injustices, corruption, and human rights violations around the world, putting themselves on the frontlines where they risk life and limb.

This year, 65 journalists and media workers have been killed reporting on wars and humanitarian crises around the world. We know